

XXXVIII.—On *Fumaria micrantha*, Lag., and *F. calycina*, Bab. By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c.*

THE difference of opinion which has for some time existed between Dr. Arnott and myself concerning the identity of the *Fumaria micrantha* (Lag.) and the *F. calycina* (Bab.) having been now set at rest, I feel myself bound to communicate the fact to the public at the earliest opportunity. In the original paper upon these plants by Dr. Walker Arnott (published by the Bot. Soc.) he expressly states that he had not seen and did not know of an authentic specimen of *F. micrantha*, and there appearing to me to be many weighty reasons for not considering the *F. calycina* as identical with it, I have, up to the present time, resisted the application of La Gasca's name to my plant. The reasons referred to have been already communicated to the Botanical Society, but will not now be published, as they are quite superseded by information which I have recently obtained.

Learning accidentally that, in a small but valuable work, entitled 'Introduction à une Flore analytique de Paris,' a *Fumaria* was noticed under the name of *F. micrantha* (Lag.), I applied to Dr. A. Weddell, one of its authors, for information concerning that plant, sending at the same time a specimen of the Edinburgh *F. calycina*. In reply he informs me that Prof. Parlatore, Curator of the Grand-ducal Herbarium at Florence, who, it is well known, has long been employed upon a monograph of the *Fumariaceæ*, compared the French plant "with authentic samples" of that of La Gasca, and thus with certainty determined their identity. Dr. Weddell has now carefully examined my specimen from Edinburgh of *F. calycina*, and sent to me a portion of one of his own specimens of the French *F. micrantha*, at the same time giving his opinion that the Parisian and Scottish specimens belong to the same species. In this opinion I fully concur; and as it is clear, from what has been already stated, that they agree with the plant of La Gasca, the Scottish plant must be denominated *F. micrantha*, and the name which I applied to it will sink into a synonym. I may add, that Dr. Weddell refers *F. prehensilis* (Kitaib.) to this species (on the authority of authentic specimens), not to *F. capreolata*, as was done by Dr. Arnott.

In the course of the summer of 1842 my valued friend Mr. Borrer observed that the *F. micrantha* was plentiful near Guildford in Surrey, and it is probable that it will prove to be far from a rare plant in Britain.

* Read before the Botanical Society at Edinburgh.